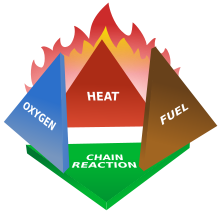
**The Visual Tool – Explanation** 

I have used the fire tetrahedron to explain the four elements of fire for many years. This visual model helps to explain the inter relationship between the parts. Each part needs to be there for the fire to burn. It is quickly seen by the student that a fire is a “house of cards”. As fire fighters, they just have to pick the most effective method to remove one or more of the cards.

This simple visualization leads it to some very animated and lively discussion. The instructor asks the class:

“How could you remove the Heat Element?”

“How could you remove the Fuel Element?”

“Which extinguisher removes more than one element?”

“Which extinguisher removes all four elements?”

“Which is the most effective element to remove in a small oil fire?”

This model helps the student with rapid decision making in stressful situations. There is an easy logic to equipment and procedural selection. The yellow tetrahedron in the classroom is pass around and it comes a real decision making tool. This is anchored with practical fire-fighting sessions at the fire school.